

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01196 171539Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W  
-----171756 079790 /47

R 171453Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 1196

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: COURT DECISION THREATENS TO UPSET LABOR PARTY CONVENTION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WITH ONLY DAYS REMAINING BEFORE ITS ALL-IMPORTANT CONVENTION, THE LABOR PARTY'S WOES CONTINUE TO PROLIFERATE. ON FEBRUARY 15 THE SUPREME COURT UPHELD A LOWER COURT'S DECISION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE INCLUSION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AS DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, ALONG WITH THE NEWLY ELECTED DELEGATES, CONTRAVENES THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS AGREED UPON ABOUT A YEAR AGO, PRIMARILY TO OVERCOME FEARS OF THE AHDUT AVODAH THAT IN AN OPEN ELECTION OF DELEGATES THAT FACTION WOULD LOSE GROUND. SINCE AHDUT AVODAH COMPRISES ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AUTOMATIC SEATING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD GIVE THE FACTION ASSURED REPRESENTATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEL AV 01196 171539Z

2. BECAUSE THE PARTY'S LEADERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, VIRTUALLY NONE OF THEM RAN AS DELEGATES IN THE FEBRUARY 1 PARTY ELECTION. THUS THE EFFECT OF THE COURT'S REULING IS TO EXCLUDE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP FROM THE CONVENTION, INCLUDING RABIN, PERES, OTHER CABINET MINISTERS, MK'S, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HISTADRUT LEADERS, ETC.

3. SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PRESS (JERUALEM POST AND HAARETZ) HAVE HIGHLIGHTED LABOR'S DISCOMFITURE OVER THE DEVELOPMENT, CALLING IT A CALAMITY AND EVEN CASTING DOUBT ON WHETHER THE CONVENTION CAN BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. THE PAPERS HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PARTY CONSTITUTION PLACES A CEILING OF 10 PERCENT ON THE NUMBER OF NON-CONVENTION DELEGATES WHO CAN BE ELECTED TO THE NEXT CENTRAL COMMITTEE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE COURT'S RULING WOULD MEAN THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE PRESENT PARTY LEADERSHIP WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO BE CHOSEN BY THE CONVENTION.

4. THE PARTY'S LEGAL EXPERTS ARE ALREADY AT WORK EXAMINING WAYS TO AMEND THE CONSITUTION AND PARTY LEADERS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US HAVE DOWNPLAYED THE GRAVITY OF THE COURT'S DECISION, EMPHASIZING THAT THE CONVENTION IS SOVEREIGN WITHIN THEPARTY. THEY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE CONVENTION WILL APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF THE OUT-GOING CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE.  
END UNCLASSIFIED  
BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THE OPTIMISM EXPRESSED BY OUR CONTACTS, WE ASSUME THAT THE INCLUSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL DEPEND ON THE VOTE OF THE 2300 ELECTED DELEGATES. WHILE IT IS VIRTUALLY INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH A VOTE COULD GO AGAINST THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, THE SCHEDULE OF THE CONVENTION,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEL AV 01196 171539Z

WHICH WILL VOTE ON THE CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER AS ONE OF ITS FIRST ORDERS OF BUSINESS, COULD BE UPSET. THE ENTIRE AFFAIR APPEARS TO BE ONE MORE SYMPTOM OF THE LABOR PARTY'S CURRENT MALAISE. AS SUMMED UP IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL: "AS IN THE CASE OF PARTY FINANCING PRACTICES, THE LABOR PARTY SEEMS TO HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO ITS OWN MISGUIDED REARGUARD FIGHT AGAINST CHANGING POLITICAL MORES. MEANWHILE, THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION THAT A PARTY'S CONSTITUTION IS MORE THAN A SCRAP OF PAPER SHOULD BE WELCOMED AS A HARBINGER OF A NEW ERA INPOLITICS."  
DUNNIGAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV01196  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770057-0372  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770229/aaaabafa.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 90aeffc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3287885  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COURT DECISION THREATENS TO UPSET LABOR PARTY CONVENTION BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** PINT, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/90aeffc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009